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Title of Work: BGSU Grads Encouraged to Dream

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Description / Subject:

Newspaper coverage of a commencement address delivered by Dr. Gene W. Poor at Bowling Green State University in December 2005. In this speech, Poor encourages graduates to consider the possibility of building a “dream life,” emphasizing that extraordinary outcomes often begin with improbable beginnings.

Drawing on his own story—nearly not graduating from high school, later earning advanced degrees, becoming a university professor, founding the VCT program, creating multiple companies, and ultimately standing on the commencement stage—Poor highlights the power of betting on possibilities rather than odds.

His message to graduates is simple and inspiring:

If you dream big enough, the odds don’t matter.

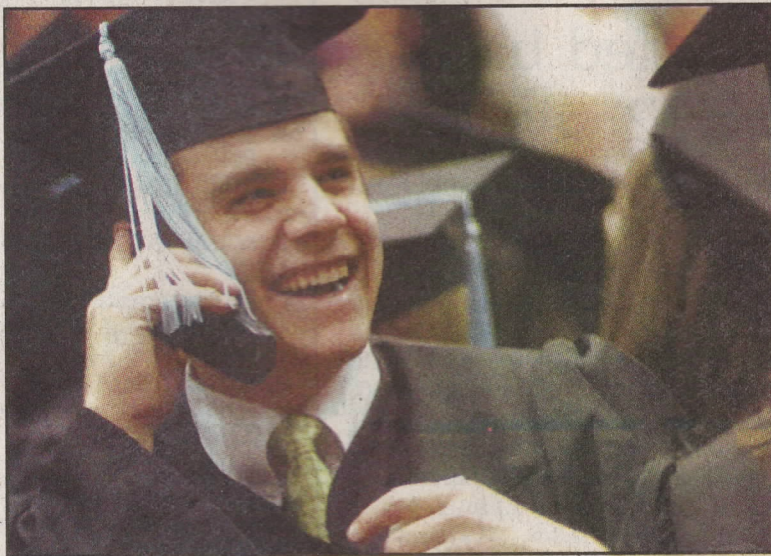
The article includes front-page coverage and a continuation on page 5 from the *Sentinel-Tribune*.

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Summary: Newspaper coverage of Dr. Gene W. Poor’s December 2005 BGSU commencement address encouraging graduates to pursue possibility, dream boldly, and ignore the odds.



Brett McClure talks to parents via phone during graduation

BGSU grads encouraged to dream

By JENISE FOUTS
Sentinel Staff Writer

Eighteen months before she even heard her commencement speaker, Bowling Green State University sophomore Stephanie Kabert did exactly what he recommended: She turned a probability into a possibility. And it worked.

Kabert was one of one of about 880 undergraduates attending Saturday's commencement in Anderson Arena.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Gene Poor, professor of visual communication and technology education at BGSU, as well as recipient of the 2004 Master Teacher Award from the Student Alumni Association.

Kabert, of South Euclid, attended BGSU for two years in its criminal justice program. But there was a waiting list for needed classes, and the probability

remained it would take her years to finish a four-year bachelor's degree.

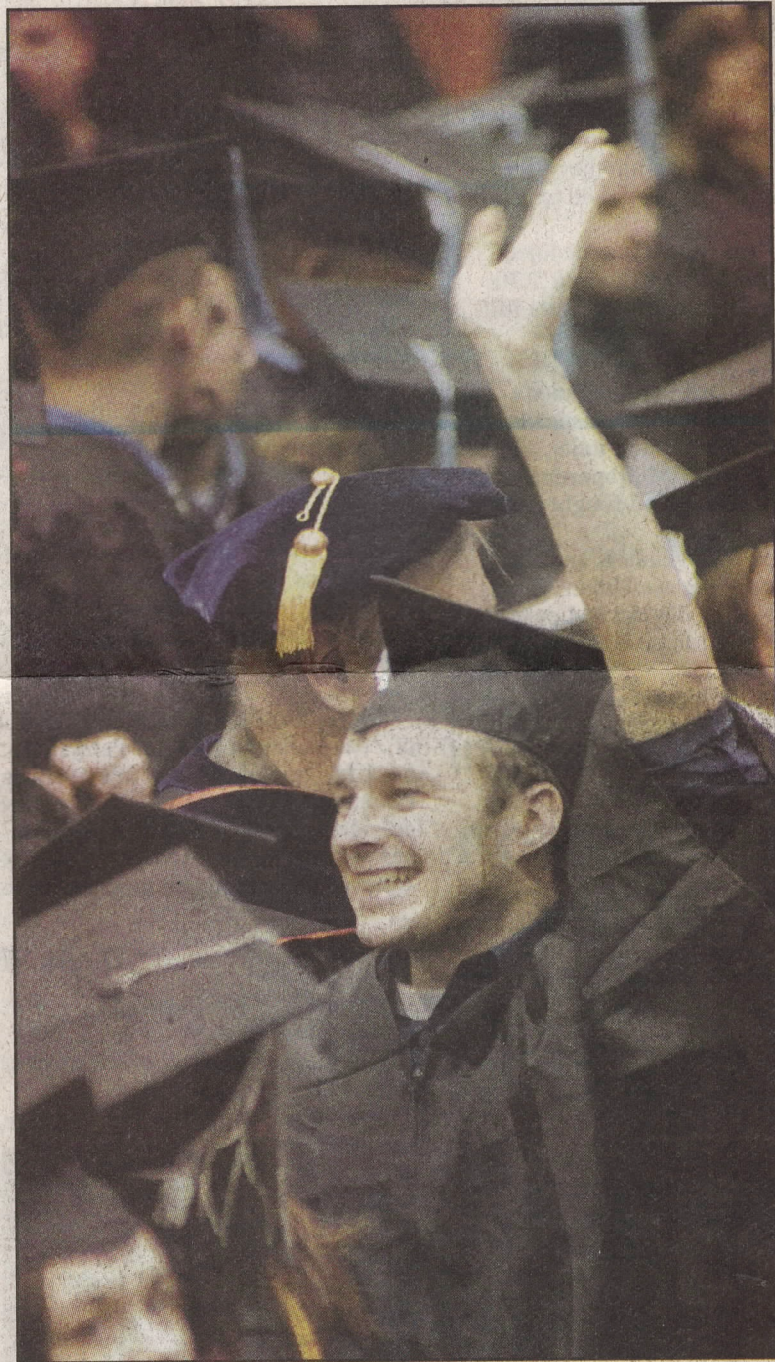
"I would have been here five or six (years) if I hadn't had the classes," she explained.

So Kabert turned that probability into a possibility by transferring instead to the BGSU Firelands campus. Not only did she complete her degree, she shaved an entire semester off her education, earning her bachelor's in criminal justice in only three-and-a-half years.

In addition, Kabert had smaller classes, six to 20 in a classroom instead of 30 to 50. "It was a tighter-knit group," she stated. "The staff members seemed more friendly and helpful. ... And it's half the price, too."

"Originally they discouraged me from leaving here," Kabert continued. "But I thought, 'Hey, I'm going to try it anyway.'"

Her goal is to be in investiga-



Photos by Chris Schooler/Sentinel-Tribune

Mark Janchar waves to parents at BGSU graduation

tive work, and she is job hunting in Cleveland.

In his address, Poor encouraged the graduates to consider the possibility of having a dream life. He talked about different probabilities, including the one 40 years ago he would never be a commencement speaker.

"But it was *possible*. It was *possible* in spite of the fact that I almost didn't graduate from high

school, let alone go to college, get advanced degrees ... Probabilities vs. possibilities. I beg you, only consider your possibilities."

Poor said he had a dream life, doing what he loved and getting paid for it.

"Can you have a dream life? Absolutely! A better question is,

(See DREAMS on 5)

LOCAL/NATIONAL

Dreams

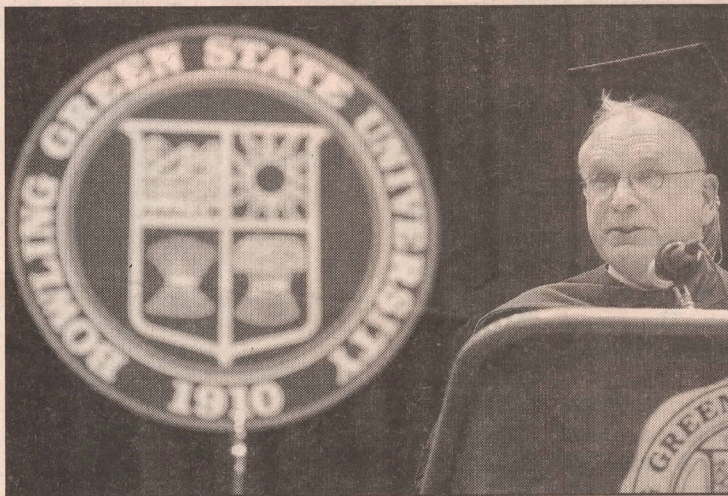
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in the final analysis, will you have? You choose the life you live. ... Remember, it's your dream. We're just in it. You have to work hard at never having to work again."

In their search for a dream life he offered this advice: "Take passion in everything you do. ... Continue to develop a sense of humor. ... Unleash the power of goal setting. ... Seek out mentors and heroes. ... Hone your appreciation skills. ... Savor the journey."

"Finally, always bet on your possibilities. Les Brown says it best, 'If the dream is big enough, the odds don't matter.'"

Among the nontraditional graduates was Diane Smith of Fremont who completed her bachelor of science in nursing 11 years after earning her associate degree in applied science. A registered nurse whose specialty is working in critical



Chris Schooler/Sentinel-Tribune

Gene Poor speaks to BGSU graduates on Saturday

care/medical ICU, she works at Toledo Hospital.

In spite of working full-time and taking care of her family, it took Smith only two years to complete her degree. "Most of my classes have been on-line, which works good for the non-traditional student who's work-

ing," she said.

"I picked it up pretty quickly. I really liked it. It gave me a lot of flexibility. You can do your coursework whenever. If you want to sit down with a cup of coffee in your pajamas at your computer you can — and I did on occasion."

January will find her beginning work on her master's degree, some on-line and some at Medical University of Ohio. Her goal is to be an adult nurse practitioner and continue on staff at Toledo Hospital.

Also a nontraditional graduate was Troy Gulgin, 30, formerly of Ottawa, Ohio. Over the course of the last 12 years he started Ohio State in finance, then engineering, left, and came back to school, choosing BGSU for a degree in computer science.

"I looked at what I was really interested in, and that was it. I knew there was a need for it — anything in technology these days.

He will move his wife, Katie, and two sons, Trae and Ty, to Lorain where he has already been hired by a company to do programming. Gulgin said he used a job fair at BGSU and sent out resumes to find employment.